

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes May 11, 2020

7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Selectboard Chairman, John Esposito. Also in attendance were Selectmen Kim Roberge and Tim Berry.

Esposito led the meeting in a moment of silence for the victims of Covid-19 and those helping out.

Resident, Randy Herring, asked if the speed limit sign could be re-installed on Beech Hill Rd. He feels with all the people out walking and cars speeding, it is a disaster waiting to happen.

DPW Director, Ben Crosby said it is on his list for this week.

Herring asked if the Town is thinking of abandoning recycling, as he has read this online.

Esposito said that that is no factual - it is not happening. The logistics of social distancing is a problem, and we are losing money on some items, but we will still recycle.

Berry said that the Board will talk about it later in the meeting, and put something out on the web site.

Herring asked if we had received the digital speed signs yet, and when answered in the affirmative, asked if one of those could be put on Beech Hill as well.

Board reviewed the tabled minutes of 4/27/20. Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to accept the minutes of April 27, 2020 as amended. Roberge; yes, Berry; yes, Esposito; yes

Board reviewed the minutes of 5/4/20. Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to accept the minutes of May 4, 2020 as written. Roberge; yes, Berry; yes, Esposito; yes.

7:15 pm Department Head Meeting

Chief Furlong, Emergency Management Director, gave an update on the NH Covid-19 numbers that included: 3160 testing positive, 1231 recovered and 1709 active. He said there is currently an active case in Mont Vernon. Thursday there is a 2:00 pm conference call regarding funding sources, and one on Friday for law enforcement.

The Stay at home order stands until May 31. Some retail will be able to open with modifications, and on May 18th restaurants with outdoor seating can open with modifications. There are new guidelines for employers and employees. Department heads will need to make sure sick employees stay home and screen for fever and health questions. They are promoting hygiene and mitigating exposure. Whenever more than one employee is in a room, they all have to wear a mask.

Rich Masters, Health Officer: The Chief is spot-on, we are suggested to follow these guidelines but not mandated. What would be appropriate for us is to check temperatures with a non-contact thermometer and ask the 5 health questions. Maybe all of the employees could come to Town Hall to complete this screening before reporting to work.

Heather Kennedy, Recreation director: Rec. has launched the "Common Thread" and the "Virtual Challenge". There is a backyard picnic planned for this weekend. We want you to do all the things that you would normally do on Spring Gala day: have pancakes for breakfast, go for a run, decorate your bike and have a parade in your driveway, make a mini float etc. Send in pictures – there will be prizes. If anyone would be willing to be a judge, let me know.

Esposito said that all the regular fundraisers will be lacking this year, maybe you could put out a "blurb" about donating to these causes. Kennedy said that she would do that in the next few days, and asked about Concerts on the Green.

Esposito asked her to wait a few weeks before cancelling to see what happens.

Roberge said that Alex Preston would like to perform.

Bonnie Angulas, Library Director.

- We applied and were awarded a grant for \$3000 that we will use to purchase Hoopla Digital Service and Zoom. Hoopla is a pay for checkout service. We will use this as a trial to see if it gets enough usage to purchase in the future. It is like Amazon and Netflix together. We expect it to launch by Memorial Day.
- As far as a reopening plan, we don't fall into any category – we are kind of making up our own plan.
- We will offer a 6-week summer take away kit.
- We would like to bring back curb-side service. We will see what happens on May 31st. I don't see how we can maintain 6 feet social distancing in our small footprint.
- We have free access to Ancestry and to Rosetta Stone.
- We will be advertising free wi-fi in the parking lot.

Roberge asked how the digital content will get to patrons.

Angulas explained that she has \$500 for advertising, and she will use email, Facebook, friend groups etc.

Roberge said that she may get more patrons than she thinks she will.

Belinda Yeaton, Town Clerk said that she is ordering a plexiglass shield for the Clerks office and asked if anyone else would like one. They are either 24" or 30" wide, 30" high and have a cutout in the middle.

Esposito asked her to order 2 for the Selectmen's Office/Tax Collector.

Roberge asked her how things were going and was told that she has had one complaint.

Roberge asked about dog registrations and was told that she still has 187 unregistered dogs.

Chief Wilson, Fire Department explained an email he sent the Board regarding needed repairs to Engine 3. The estimate is \$6,000 for the full repair, we have spent \$3000 so far.

Esposito asked when it will be back in service.

Wilson said that it is in partial service now. He added that the budget line will go over by yearend.

Berry said that in his email he offered 2 solutions, and he takes it that the less expensive option is no longer on the table.

Wilson said that is correct.

Esposito agreed with the Chiefs decision to make the full repair.

Wilson said that the Selectmen should get the plexiglass shields for the full length of the Office counter.

Berry asked if purchasing non-contact thermometers is something Wilson would like to do, and can we share the equipment?

Wilson said that the FD members are good about checking themselves, but having a few at the station for responding to an emergency would be a good idea.

Masters said that he believes they are readily available at \$45 - \$80.

Angulas asked what would be done with the information, as this may be a HIPPA problem. Also, would she have to take patron's temperatures?

Furlong explained that the guidelines say just Employers and Employees. He also feels that the PD will not have to take temperatures and perform the health screening because they schedule only one officer on at a time.

Crosby said that his employees are self-checking at home before they come in.

Angulas asked if Mont Vernon would require it as part of their employment.

Esposito feels it is sufficient at this time to have the Department Heads make sure their employees self-check.

Furlong said he would send the Department Heads the checklist so that they can take their own temperatures and make sure that they answer the checklist questions.

Roberge agreed that we should require our employees to self-check, and she agrees that the Board should get more than two shields.

Esposito agreed to get three shields.

Ben Crosby, DPW Director

- Repair to the F550 will be less than \$3500 and would get us another year or so. We do use it a lot for leaf clean-up, pulling the landscape trailer and the chipper etc.

Berry asked how much was in the maintenance line and was told \$5000.

Esposito said that he is not against it, but wants to wait until we see what will happen with tax income in July.

Crosby said it is still operational.

Roberge asked if any of the repairs can be done in-house and was told that all of them will be. They will get help from the Brookline PWD to do the injectors.

- Berry asked about making more room for parking at the Purgatory Road trail head. If we open the loop around the old stone foundation the only cost would be the gravel at around \$700.

Berry said that he asked Crosby to look into that because Joanne Draghetti sent an email with concerns with the limited parking at the trail head. It seems that the situation out there is under control, but this issue is not going to go away in the short term.

Roberge said that she would like more input, like from the Conservation Commission. The other gate has no signs to say "No Parking".

Wilson said he does have a sign to put up. This is an emergency access to Upper Purgatory Falls.

- We are ready to schedule the pavers for Sean Drive, and Beech Hill and Salisbury is right behind. Hopefully we can schedule the week before or the week after Memorial Day.

Roberge asked what kind of work they were doing on Brook Rd. and was told that they were doing culverts.

- Have an opportunity from the Calcium Chloride people to purchase a 2-year-old applicator and tank for \$2700. (new \$7000) This would give us the opportunity to apply it ourselves and save money on the solution. They would put a tank on site and would drop the cost of the Calcium Chloride.

Roberge asked if we could still meet the Town's expectations with the remainder of the budgeted money?

Crosby said that we could treat the high traffic areas and do one pass on the low traffic areas.

Roberge said that she likes the cost effectiveness of this, and asked if we have room to store it.

Crosby said that they would put it up on blocks to keep it off the ground. They will use it in the 6-wheeler as it is too big for the one ton.

Berry asked if they plow with the 6-wheeler and was told that they would have to take out the tank to use it for plowing, but that it only takes 10 minutes. He also said that he wouldn't even be thinking of it if it weren't for the price.

Crosby reminded the Board that they can buy road equipment with the Block Grant money.

Roberge asked if there was any warranty at all and was told that Crosby will ask.

Esposito told Crosby to get all the information and get back to the Board.

- Still working on the road grading, getting the Purple Heart signs up, the Doc Adams sign back up, and getting the poles for the new speed signs in.
- We will be closing Beech Hill Road and Salisbury Road when we do the culvert work.

Esposito apprised the Board on the meeting he went to with the Souhegan Regional Landfill District. Hollis and Amherst have gone back to limited recycling and added a day specifically for Seniors. If we want to start limited recycling, we have to figure out the logistics of social distancing with the space that we have. When we do go back to recycling plastic, we can only accept clear plastic bottles and clear milk bottles.

Berry explained that the plastic has to have a "2" in the triangle.

Esposito said that magazines can no longer go in with the newspapers. Cardboard is the only thing that is increasing in value. The extra trucking can be covered by FEMA money.

Berry asked Brown to put a blurb on the website that lets people know that we will be going back to recycling; that we are not giving up on it just because it no longer makes us money.

Roberge said that the Stay-at-Home order as it stands ends on May 31st. People have been storing their recyclables until they are accepted again at the transfer station. We may need to have some kind of phase-in plan to get started again. Everyone wants to recycle. If we don't have a plan the line will be out to the Library when we re-open it.

Esposito said that he didn't make a commitment to the District because he knew it would be a logistics problem.

Roberge would like to set a timeline so that we can say that on X date, we will do _____.

Esposito asked everyone to get some ideas together and bring them to the Board next week.

Masters said that you might want to open paper first.

Roberge suggested cardboard and cans at the same time because they are on opposite sides of the parking lot.

Or maybe rotate days. Berry said that we have been training people on the correct way to be patient and social distancing. Maybe we could move the people around so that they don't jump out and run for the shed.

Roberge asked Chief Furlong about the parking situation at our trailheads.

Furlong said that each officer checks the parking three times per shift. The most has been: 7 on Dow Road, 2 on Purgatory Road and 4 at Lamson Farm. There have been no calls for service for either the Police or Fire Departments.

Zoe Fimbel said that a meeting of the Lamson Farm Commission took place and they decided not to close the trails unless something destructive happens.

Berry asked if they could block off the hole in the stone wall so that no one could get a vehicle in there.

Fimbel said that they could maybe put some large stones in the gap.

Berry said that there is a gang of kids tearing up hay fields and meadows.

Fimbel said that we did have one situation where someone weed-whacked a spot, hit golf balls from it and they used a 4-wheeler to drive around picking up the golf balls.

Masters asked if we had decided to buy thermometers or not.

Roberge said that we did not decide. The Police Chief is going to send us the guidelines and make sure our employees are self-monitoring.

Berry suggested waiting for feedback from the Fire Department.

Esposito said that he thinks we should leave it up to the department heads.

Roberge agreed.

Crosby said he would let the Board know. He said that Amherst has to come in with a signed copy of the checklist or they can't work.

Masters said that the State has stepped up the testing. You can sign up to get tested for free if you are over 60, have symptoms, or are a health care worker.

End of Department Head Meeting

Roberge brought up the Building Inspector time line policy,

Esposito said that the Board will set up a non-public meeting with Town Counsel to discuss the Building Inspector issue.

Roberge suggested 1 year from C/O and 2 years from either renewal or last inspection.

Brown let the Board know that Bill McKinney and Charlie Baker will be in next week to present the facilities chapter of the Master Plan.

9:10 PM As there was no further business before the Board, Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to adjourn.

All in favor.

11/10/21, 5:11 PM

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Respectfully Submitted,
Laurie Brown